

S-407
 Bloomsbury
 Venton vicinity (site)
 private

Mid to late eighteenth century

"Bloomsbury Plantation" figures prominently in the history of Somerset County as the lands of Levin Winder, governor of Maryland during the War of 1812. Located on the south side of Little Monie Creek, the "Bloomsbury" tract was created in 1787 as a resurvey for Thomas Sloss. Sloss had acquired ownership of parts of several adjacent tracts including "Bloye's Hope," "Malborough," "Success," and "Pennywise," through marriage to Mary Stoughton, daughter of William Stoughton, who purchased these and other tracts early in the eighteenth century. Thomas and Mary Sloss probably started construction of the large brick house that was assessed in 1798, the year following Thomas's death. Through Thomas's will, the "Bloomsbury" lands were divided between the couple's two daughters, Mary Stoughton Sloss Winder and Ann Stoughton Sloss Gantt. To Mary went half the land along with the dwelling house and outbuildings except the barn. This plantation complex is apparently the one the federal assessors listed under the ownership of Levin Winder, Mary's husband, in 1798. The improvements were described as,

1 Dwelling house 50 by 36 brick two story high, 4 windows 7 feet 6 inches long, 3 feet 9 inches wide; 2 windows 6 feet long 1 foot 9 inches wide; 8 windows 7 feet 6 inches long, 3 feet wide; 2 windows 5 feet long, 21 inches wide; 6 windows 6 feet 6 inches long, 3 feet wide; 8 windows 6 feet 6 inches long, 3 feet wide; 4 windows 3 feet long 21 inches wide, not finished and brickwork very indifferent; 1 Cook house and colonade (sic) 37 feet by 19 feet brick one story, 3 windows, 3 feet 8 inches long, 2 feet 4 inches wide, 1 window 3 feet 3 inches long 21 inches wide, 1 Smoke house 12 feet square, 1 Stable 32 by 22 feet, 1 Carriage house 19 by 15, 1 Necessary 8 feet square.

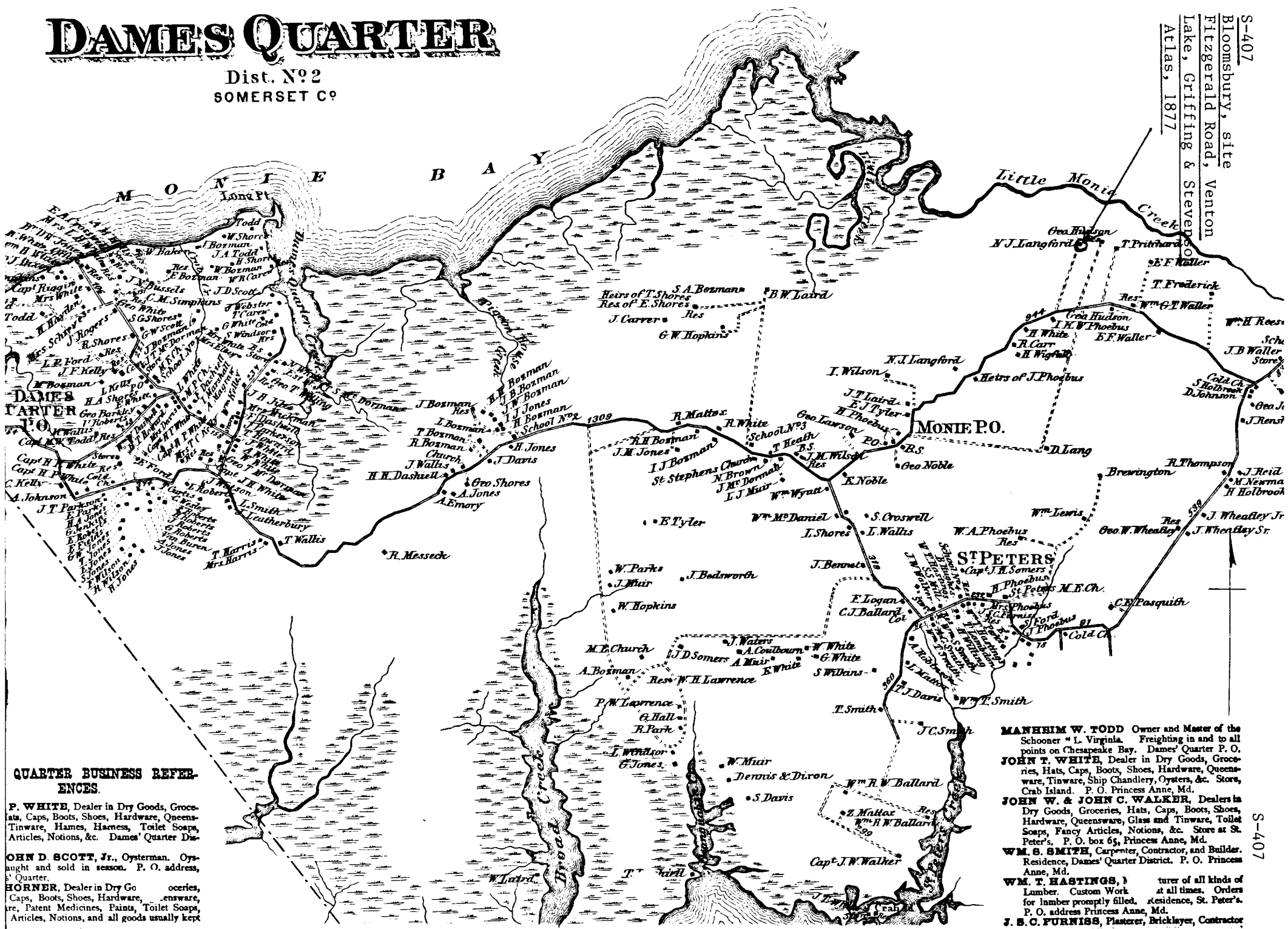
Levin Winder acquired the balance of the "Bloomsbury" plantation from his wife's sister and husband in 1808, thereby controlling close to one-thousand acres along the Little Monie. Winder commissioned portraits of himself and his wife, Mary, by

artist William Clarke. The likeness of Winder himself captures a partial rendering of the "Bloomsbury" plantation complex. Levin Winder died in 1819, and Mary evidently remained at "Bloomsbury" until her death in 1822. The family lands passed to William Sydney Winder and his wife, Araminta Rogers; however, William was forced to mortgage the creek plantation several times during the late 1820s and 1830s. In 1841, William finally sold the land to Samuel G. Holbrook, who resided on the plantation until his death in 1854. Two years later, Samuel's widow, Mary L. Holbrook, transferred title of "Bloomsbury" to Nathan L. Langford, in whose family the property has remained to this day. Langford family traditions relate that when Nathan purchased the farm, the old Winder house had been abandoned for several years and had reached a seriously deteriorated condition.

DAMES' QUARTER

Dist. N^o 2
SOMERSET CO

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Bloomsbury, site
Fitzgerald Road, Venton
Lake, Griffing & Stevenson
Atlas, 1877



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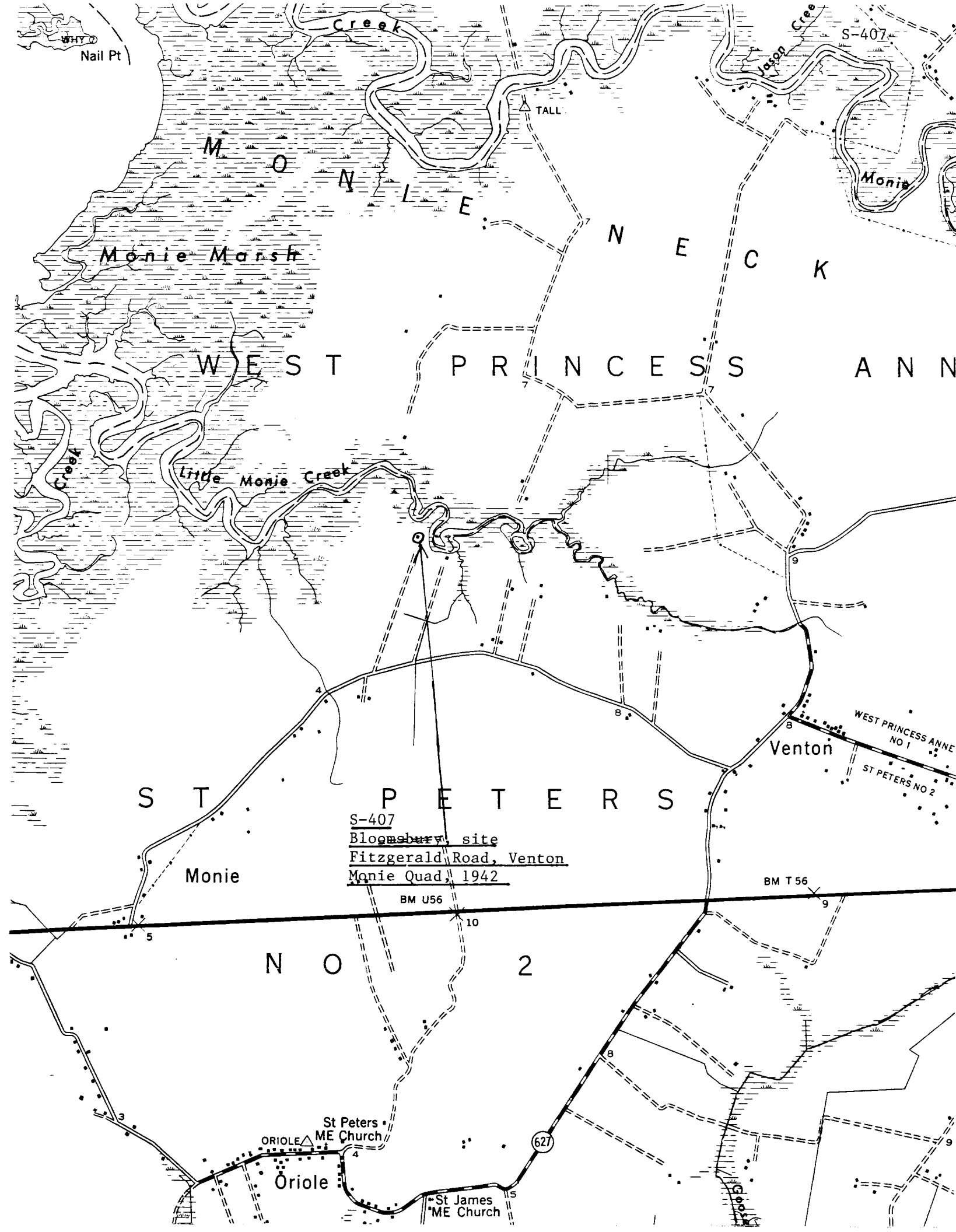
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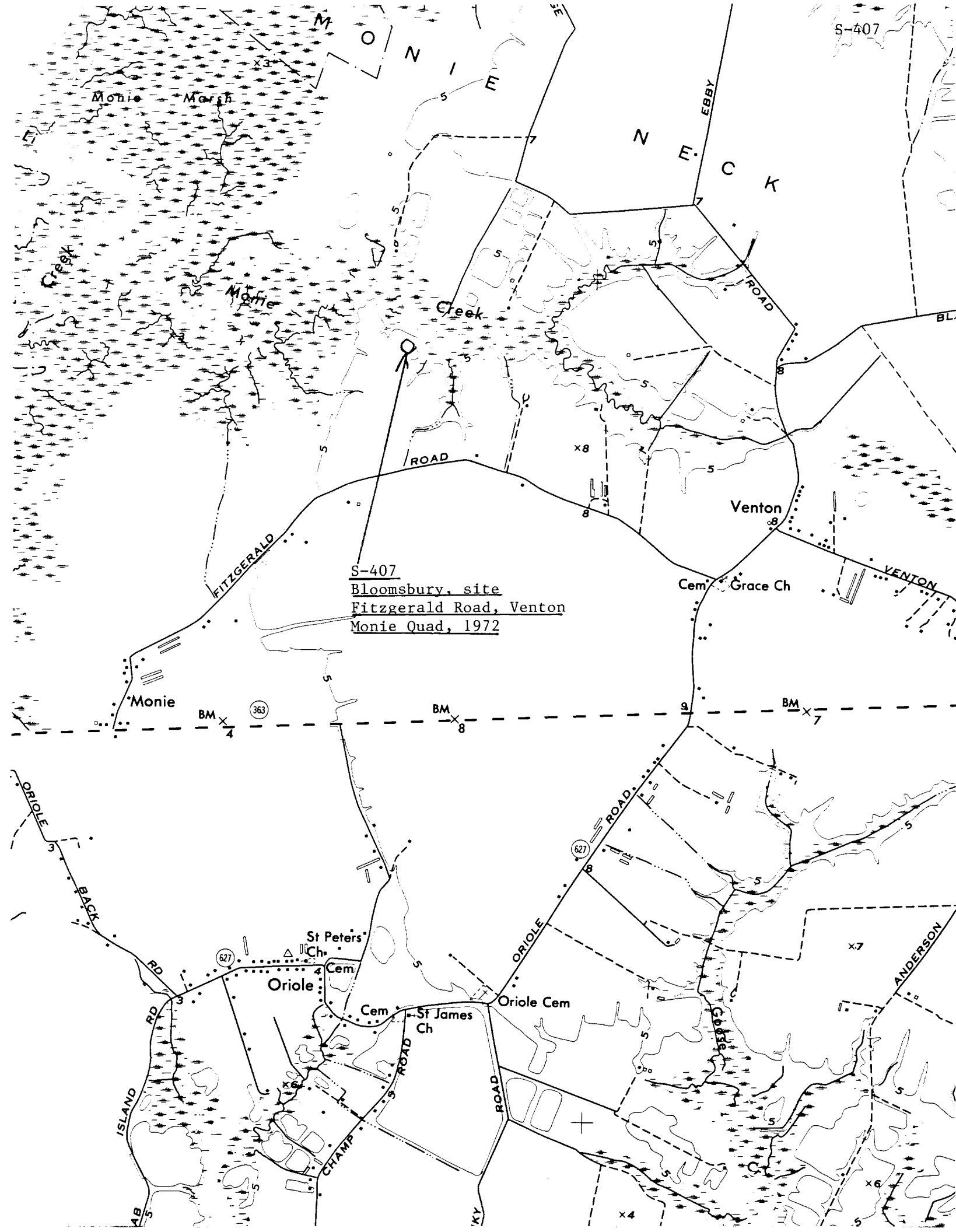
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